

Cummington Board of Health Establishes 50% Recycling Goal

The Board of Health has established a 50% recycling goal with the intent of increasing quantity and improving the quality of the materials being recycled at the transfer station. When the goal was first set in 2015, the Town of Cummington had a recycling rate of 31.7%. Currently, the percentage has improved, increasing to 34.5%.

Many residents are conscientious about recycling and believe that they are properly recycling. The Board of Health encourages you to be aware of recycling's "Most Unwanted". Bagging recycling in plastic bags is one of the most common problems at the Springfield Municipal Recycling Facility (MRF).

Residents are reminded to keep these items out of your recycling bin:

- No Plastic Bags in with recycling– they bind up sorting mechanisms at the MRF
- No Placement of Recycling in Plastic Bags
- No Cords or wrapping items – these shut down MRF rollers
- No Loose Shredded Paper – place shredded paper in paper bags
- Keep non-recyclable plastics out of the MRF container. Samples:
 - EPS(Styrofoam)– see attendant for special collection area
 - No Plastic Cups – place with household trash
 - No Plastic Containers that contained a hazardous material – i.e. windshield washer fluid, bleach, nail polish, motor oil, etc.
- No wet-strength paper – soda and beer six-pack holders and paper items from the frozen food section of the grocery store are reinforced with plastic to prevent them from collapsing when wet. These cannot be recycled into paper.
- No food waste in containers – Please rinse. Clean pizza boxes are okay. Pizza or grease in the box is not!
- No scrap metal – it damages recycling equipment. Place in metal bin.
- No ceramics, drinking glasses, canning jars, or other tempered glass.
- No fluorescent light bulbs or CRTs – see attendant for special collection area. Mercury bulbs that are broken have had the mercury released. Place broken bulbs in with your household trash.

In addition to properly recycling, the Board of Health encourages residents to be mindful to REDUCE waste and to do all that you can to RE-USE products or re-purpose them.

To help reduce your food waste, the Board of Health provides Town residents with **Earth Machine Compost Bins** through the Hilltown Resource Management Cooperative (HRMC). The Town offers the bins for \$45 (retail \$99). To place your order, call or email the HRMC Administrator with your name, street address, (mailing address, if different) and phone number.

HRMC email: hrmc@hrmc-ma.org; phone: 413-685-5498

When in doubt – ask the attendants! They are glad to answer your recycling questions.